Secl. H-27—40,000—27-10-47.

Food (1948) Department.

P/S SERIES.

G.O. No. 27

Dated 9-1-1948.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Madras Legislative Assembly Question - Firewood -Special officers for procurement and movement of Firewood - Particulars regarding duties, expenditure etc. - Papers- Recorded

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
Food Department.
***

STARRED.

Legislative Assembly Question No.346, by Sri R.Subbier M.L.A.

Will the Hon'ble the Minister for Food be pleased to State:-

(a) the duties and functions of the Special Officers for Firewood and Movement officers; and

(b) the amount spent by Government on these officers.

ANSWER

Food department

The answer is placed on the table of the House.

(Sd.) x x x x
Asst. Secretary to Govt.

To
The Secretary, Madras Legislature with three spare copies and 350 printed copies of the answer.
Copy to the Public (Elections) Department with two printed copies of the answer.

The answer (printed copy placed on the table of the House) has been approved by the Hon'ble Dr.T.S.S.Rajan, the Hon'ble Minister for food.

--

FOOD DEPARTMENT

ANSWER TO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION NO.346(STARRED) ASKED BY SRI R. SUBBIER.

(a) There are, one Special Officer for Firewood Supplied, Madras, five Firewood Movement Officers for Tanjore, South Arcot, Chingleput, Nellore and Chittoor and one Assistant Firewood Movement Officer at Renigunta for Chittoor and Cuddaph.

The post of Special Officer for Fire-wood Supplies, Madras, has with effect from the 2nd ØMay 1947, been amalgamated with the post of City Firewood Officer, Madras, The duties of the Special Office are to investigate new sources of supply of firewood to the Madras City, to inspect the supply centres under working and to check and issue permits for the import of twigs into the City. He is also responsible for the administrationof the Timber Transit Rules in the City and the adjoining areas.

The Firewood Movement Officers and the Assistant Firewood Movement Officer attend to the movement of firewood from the mufassal to the City of Madras. Their main duties are:--

(1) To contact the agency with which each Firewood Movement Officer is concerned, maintain close touch with it, and work inclose collaboration with it in the procurement and movement of stocks of firewood;

(2) to find out, from time to time, what arrangements have been made by the agency for supplying the monthlyquota, the exact localities from which the firewood is to come and the the stations from which it should be despatched;

(3) to visit the localities from time to time and see how the work progresses; where transport by rail is involved, to move from one despatching station to another, and arrange with the stationmasters concerned for the speedy provisionof waggons allotted and ensure that stocks at the railhead are loaded into waggons without delay and to their full capacity and moved wi

p.t.o.

~~with~~ the utmost possible expedition;

(4) to discuss with the supplying agent the problem of transport and labour, render all possible help to secure coolies and carts or boats, as the case may be, using their influence with local village officers, other Government servants, etc., ;

(5) to keep a close watch over the work of the supplying agency and bring to the notice of the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) any tendency on their part to slacken;

(6) to report weekly to the Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Chief Conservator of Forests the quantity of firewood transported during the week and supplied that may be expected in the succeeding week and to bring to the notice of the Board promptly any factor ~~pm~~ impeding the movement of firewood to Madras or any hitch in the arrangements for despatch; and

(7) to move about and collect information regarding sources which can be tapped for extraction of firewood and arrangements with the agency to work the areas. Should it be found necessary to commandeer any topes or private forests it will be the duty of the Firewood Movement Officer to take the matter to the notice of the Collector and the Commissioner of Civil Supplies and to attend to further developments promtly.

(b) The expenditure incurred on these officers and their establishments during 1946-47 was Rs.93,382.

M.A. Kuttalalingam Pillai,
Secretary to Government.

---

gs/4-12/

SPECIAL OFFICERS FOR FIREWOOD, etc.

*259Q.--SRI R. SUBBA AYYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state--

(a) the duties and functions of the Special Officers for Firewood and Movement officers; and

(b) the amount spent by Government on these officers and their establishments?

THE HON. DR. T.S.S. RAJAN:-"The answer is placed on the table of the House."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:--"May I ask the Government, Sir, to discontinue firewood rationing in the City of Madras as it exists nowhere in the province?"

THE HON. DR.T.S.S.RAJAN:--"As long as the firewood supply is deficient in the City we are obliged to continue the firewood rationing."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:--"May I know, Sir, whether the duties of the Special Officers were carried on by the District Forest Officers during pre-war days?"

THE HON. DR. T.S.S.RAJAN:- "It may be a fact, Sir, I am not aware of it."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:--"Would it not be a disastrous steps if the firewood rationing in the City is removed under the existing circumstances?"

THE HON. DR. T.S.S.RAJAN:- "That is what I have said, Sir."

SRI V. IL.MUNISWAMI PILLAI:--"will the Government consider the desirability of asking the Forest Department itself to undertake these duties?"

THE HON. DR.T.S.S.RAJAN:--"No, Sir. There is too much work for the Forest Officers and it has therefore to be done by a separate department."

SRI V.M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:--"When the supply and demand has adjusted itself in all parts of the Presidency why should there be with regard to firewood a different state of affairs inthe City of Madras?".

THE HON. DR. T.S.S.RAJAN:--"It is for the simple reason that there is not sufficient firewood coming into the City."

BEGUN SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:--"May I know, Sir, whether the firewood situation is likely to so improve as to do away with the necessity of having these Firewood Officers?"

THE HON. DR. T.S.S.RAJAN:--"It is very difficult to limit or fix a time because the Government are guided by the flow of firewood into the City and when the requirements of the City are sufficient and there is a guaranteed supply, we can think of removing these officers."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:--"Is the Minister aware that people have to pay more charges for firewood in the City of Madras than in other places?"

THE HON. DR. T.S.S. RAJAN:--"I do not think so."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:--"Are the Government aware that there is scarcity of fuel in the City of Madras and may I know what steps the Government are taking, Sir, to augment the supply of firewood in the City?"

THE HON. DR. T.S.S. RAJAN:--"I would request the hon. Member to go through thepaper placed on the table of the House and it gives all the information that is necessary."

p.t.o.

The printed proceedings of the Madras Legislative Assembly extracted above may be perused. In answering certain supplementary / Questions, H.M.(Food) has stated the removal of firewood officers could be thought of only when the requirements of the city in firewood are met and there is a guaranteed supply. As the scheme of firewood rationing has been extended till 31-3-1949 the supply of Firewood to the city has necessarily to be regulated till that date. The staff sanctioned for the purpose would of course be, disbanded when the necessity for their employment ceases. ie. when control over supply and distribution is withdrawn. In the circumstances no action seems called for now.

The papers may be recorded as a G.O.(Ms.) for future reference.

(Sd.) xxxx
8-1-48.

G.O.Ms.No.27--1-1948.

M.L.A. Question - Firewood - Special Officers for procurement and movement of Firewood - Particulars regarding duties, expenditure etc. - Papers - Recorded - . . . .

(Sd)xxx

/True Copy/

R. Thiagarajan 2.12.12
Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.

gs/4-12/

8-12 8.12